



### **Update to Kidz Kabin Policy and Procedures if a child or member of staff has suspected Covid-19 symptoms whilst attending nursery**

This policy was put in place on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 and revised on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 in line with Government recommendations in relation to Covid-19

Please refer to original document on the parent portal in conjunction with this update

- If a member of staff, child, or parent tests positive or has been in close contact with someone who tested positive within the past 48 hours, they should self-isolate for 10 days. They should only request a test if they are showing symptoms.

### **Update to Guidance for Implementing Protective Measures in Education and Childcare Settings as set out by the Dept of Education**

- When the nursery closed for inset day before Christmas nursery premises and resources were cleaned and sterilised in line with our cleaning practice
- We will be environmentally fogging all settings again in January which will provide an invisible and non-toxic coating to ALL nursery rooms in the settings as well as all resources used by children. This (or similar) process is used in schools, hospitals and care homes across the country and provides an extra level of protection to all those in the settings.
- We continue to follow government guidelines regarding numbers of children attending our settings.
- Where possible we will keep the same cohort of children together in the nursery. However, due to occasional staff absences due to travel, isolation, etc, we will always risk assess the situation, and if deemed appropriate, small numbers of children from different groups may mix within the setting.
- **Outings** – Children still visit local parks or woodland that are nearby and where they can access on foot. We no longer have use of the Kidz Kabin mini-bus. Children are not taken out on public transport.

### **The guidelines below are the most recent recommendations from the government publication for Early Years Settings:**

#### **Admitting children back to the setting**

Settings should not request evidence of negative test results or other medical evidence before admitting children or welcoming them back after a period of self-isolation.

In the vast majority of cases, settings and parents and carers will be in agreement that a child with symptoms should not attend the setting, given the potential risk to others. In the event that a parent or carer insists on a child attending the setting, the



setting can take the decision to refuse the child if, in their reasonable judgement, it is necessary to protect their children and staff from possible infection with coronavirus (COVID-19). Any such decision would need to be carefully considered in the light of all the circumstances and current public health advice.

## **11. Contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice**

Contact your local health protection team if:

- the number of cases exceeds 2 within 14 days
- you have taken the action outlined but are still seeing more cases
- you are thinking you might need to close because of the number of people affected
- a child or staff member in your setting has been admitted to hospital
- you are getting significant interest from local media

Your local health protection team will advise you on the next steps.

In some cases, health protection teams may recommend that a larger number of other children self-isolate at home as a precautionary measure – perhaps the whole site or a group. If settings are implementing the controls from this list, addressing the risks they have identified and therefore reducing transmission risks, whole setting closure based on cases within the setting will not generally be necessary, and should not be considered except on the advice of health protection teams.

### **New admissions**

For new admissions, settings should consider providing virtual tours for prospective parents and carers.

If parents and carers are keen to visit in person, settings should consider:

- ensuring face coverings are worn if required in line with arrangements for staff and other visitors to the setting (see the section on [face coverings](#))
- there is regular handwashing, especially before and after the visit
- holding visits after hours. If this is not possible, consider limiting visits to the outside play areas during regular hours, and ensure strict social distancing is observed

Prior to a visit, settings should ensure that parents and carers are aware:

- of the [system of controls](#)
- how this impacts them and their responsibilities during their visit
- how to maintain social distancing from staff, other visitors, and children other than those in their care



## Parents settling children

Parents and carers are able to enter a setting to help their children adapt to their new environment. Settings should ensure that parents and carers:

- wear face coverings, if required, in line with arrangements for staff and other visitors to the setting (see the section on face coverings)
- stay for a limited amount of time (ideally not more than an hour)
- avoid close contact with other children
- are aware of the [system of controls](#), how this impacts them, and their responsibilities in supporting it when visiting a setting with their child

See the section on [infection prevention and system of controls](#) for more information. It is important to explain these expectations, verbally or in writing, to parents and carers before or on arrival at a setting.

## Other visits by parents and carers

Settings should restrict all visits to the setting to those that are necessary and make use of remote visits wherever possible.

## Supply staff and students

Settings can continue to engage agency staff and students. Supply staff and other temporary workers can move between settings but setting leaders will want to consider how to minimise the number of visitors to the setting where possible.

## Malleable materials (messy play)

Settings should risk assess activities that involve malleable materials for messy play such as sand, mud and water, as part of their regular curriculum planning.

A risk assessment should consider whether:

- materials can be handled by a small, consistent group of children of no more than 15 at a time, and that no one else outside this group can come into contact with it
- the malleable material for messy play (for example sand/water/mud) can be used and cleaned - including being replaced - in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, where applicable. For example, see the [managing risk in play provision implementation guide](#)

Settings should follow the [system of controls](#) and ensure that:

- children wash their hands thoroughly before and after messy play
- frequently touched surfaces, equipment, tools and resources for messy play are thoroughly cleaned and dried before they are used by a different group



### **Parents or carers who are anxious about their child returning to the setting**

Settings should be mindful that many parents and carers may be reluctant or concerned about sending their child back to the setting and settings should put the right support in place to address this.

This may include:

- children who have themselves been shielding previously but have been advised that this is no longer formally advised
- those living in households where someone is clinically vulnerable or are clinically extremely vulnerable
- those concerned about the comparatively increased risk from coronavirus (COVID-19), including those from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds or who have certain conditions such as obesity or diabetes

If parents or carers of children with possible risk factors are concerned, we recommend settings discuss their concerns and provide reassurance of the measures they are putting in place to reduce the risk.

Clear communications with parents and carers regarding the measures being taken to ensure the safety of their children will be necessary, including the role that they play, as parents and carers, in the safe operating procedures.